The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accompanied by authentic interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

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Nothing is more disgraceful than insincerity.—Cicero.

VOL. 26, NO. 13 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1936 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer WHOLE NO. 1302

Control of Prices, Wages and Hours Recommended By Industrial Council

Report to Roosevelt Holds Poverty Is Caused by Unjust Distribution of Income Resulting from Unbridled Competition—Protection of Workers from Goods Produced by Cheap Foreign Labor Asked.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—"Poverty and suffering in a country of abundant productive resources" like the United States was declared to be the direct result of "maldistribution of income" in a study of internal and external business competition made public here by the Council for Industrial Progress and submitted to President Roosevelt by George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Coordination.

Holding that "competition is undoubtedly the outstanding factor in the question of proper income distribution" and in balancing production and consumption, the report pointed out, that the most important elements governing internal competition are: Wages and hours of work, prices and discounts, monopolies and restraint of trade, mechanization, corporate control and government competition. A few specific remedies were suggested for defects in the competitive machinery.

Protection for Labor Outlined

The report also urged that American markets should be held for American production so that labor in this country should be protected by "quantitative limitations on imports, adequate tariff protection, effective anti-dumping or other necessary legislation." It suggested that this could be achieved by amending existing laws to levy duties on foreign goods to prevent a depressive, duty-paid cost to the American purchasers of more than 5 per cent below the wage cost of comparable domestic merchandise.

O. M. Porter, secretary of the United States Pulp Producers' Association, of New York, was joint chairman of the committee representing industry management, while J. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, represented the Federation of Labor, represented labor.

Unchecked Competition Injures Workers

"In the absence of carefully defined safeguards and controls," the report said, "the unbridled force of competition will prevent the wage earners from sharing equitably in the recovery, will prevent the constructive use of capital in the operation, management and development of American industries, and will bring nearer the day when the productive power of the country will again be brought to a standstill.

"It is with the keen realization of the fact that, unless vigorous and constructive action is taken at once, another economic crisis is inevitable, a crisis far more severe and disastrous than the one we have just experienced, that this committee submits the following program of remedies which it considers indispensable for bringing about equitable distribution of income, stabilization of our economic system and preservation of our industrial supremacy.

"1. Wages and Hours.—The establishment of minimum wages and maximum hours of work is necessary in order to take the factor of labor costs out of the competitive field insofar as possible, and to provide economic stability. Minimum wage regulation is also essential in a program designed to bring about more equitable distribution of income. To be effective this regulation should cover both intrastate and interstate commerce.

"Proper distribution of income demands, however, that